

# What is a Geographic Information System (GIS)?

Simple!

It's geography, or maps:

Combined with information:

Calc_Acre	Land_Acres	Total_Value	Total_Assess_Improvements
1.268703	1.782002	0	132900
50.414204	51.79871	78508	104300
40.689884	40	22325	0
2.191091	2.660009	0	198700
1.924211	1.929982	66700	0
23.529480	29.3	179400	0
0.038969	2.919995	78700	143500
20.738062	21.26871	72520	322300
2.910702	2.919995	78700	143500
46.134171	25	7660	0

So,

Geography + Information = **GIS**

Basically, each feature in the GIS, such as a house or a road is linked to a row in a table of information that looks very much like a spreadsheet. Here, all sorts of useful data can be stored.

For a House, information like YEAR BUILT, SQUARE FOOTAGE, NUMBER OF STORIES, and ADDRESS might be useful.

For a Parcel, it might be nice to have ACRES, DATE PURCHASED, ADDRESS, and OWNER NAME.

Click on a map to get  
Information about a Parcel

A GIS consists of many different maps  
placed on top of one another.

There are maps of:

Manholes

Streets

Rivers

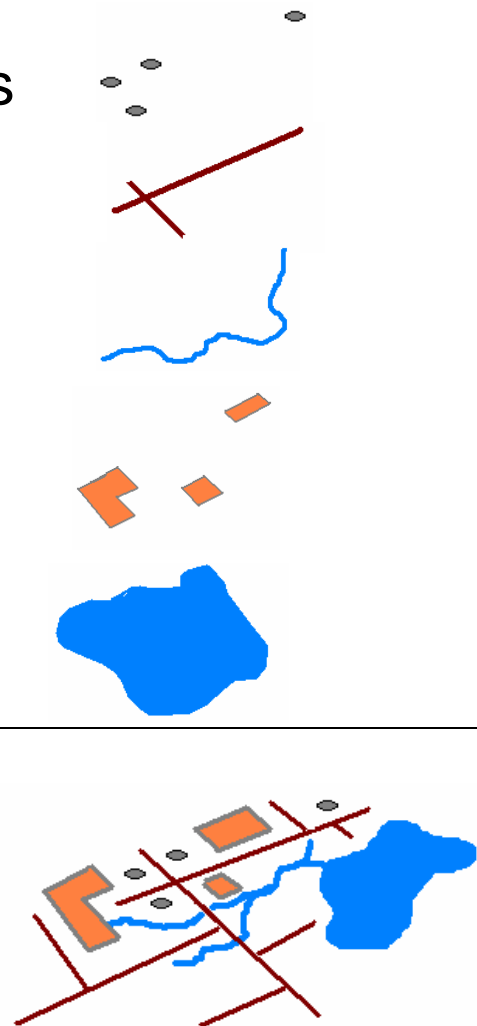
Houses

Ponds

+

=

**GIS**



In the GIS world, each map is called a layer...  
Like a cake!

There are layers of:

Lettering

Flowers

Candles

Frosting

+

Cake

=

